

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUSAKA 02095 110734Z

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ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-10 ISO-00 IO-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-10 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-14 USIA-04 AID-05 OMB-01 DRC-01 /071 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

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INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, PINS, PFOR, SF, RH, ZA

SUBJECT: ZAMBIA REJECTS RHODESIAN

PROTESTS OVER BORDER INCIDENTS

REF: CAPE TOWN 607

1. SUMMARY: GRZ SPOKESMAN ON OCTOBER 8 REPUDIATED IN STRONGEST TERMS RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT'S PROTEST OVER INCIDENTS INSIDE RHODESIA AND ALONG BORDER. DENYING ZAMBIAN RESPONSIBILITY FOR WHAT HAPPENS INSIDE RHODESIA, SPOKESMAN CALLED ALLEGATIONS "ACTS OF DESPERATION BY FRAGILE AND TOTTERING REGIME." ZAMBIAN PRESS HAS GIVEN UNACCUSTOMED PUBLICITY TO FURTHER INCIDENTS OCT 5, 7, AND 8 NEAR KAZUNGULA FERRY LINKING ZAMBIA WITHBOTSWANA. END SUMMARY.

2. BREAKING GRZ'S USUAL SILENCE ON INCIDENTS

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PAGE 02 LUSAKA 02095 110734Z

ALONG ZAMBIAN-RHODESIAN BORDER, ZAMBIAN SPOKESMAN

ON OCT 8 SAID SMITH REGIME CANNOT BLAME GRZ FOR WHAT IS HAPPENING INSIDE RHODESIAN TERRITORY AND "FOR INCIDENTS WHICH ARE OF THEIR OWN CREATION." SPOKESMAN SAID GRZ REPUDIATED IN STRONGEST TERMS PROTEST REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN LODGED BY SALISBURY GOVERNMENT (REFTEL).

3. GRZ SPOKESMAN NOTED THAT FOR MANY YEARS AFRICAN PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE HAVE BEEN WAGING ARMED STRUGGLE AGAINST SMITH REGIME AND HAVE PLEDGED TO INTENSIFY THIS STRUGGLE. RECENT ACCUSATIONS AGAINST ZAMBIA REPRESENT "NOTHING NEW IN CATALOGUE OF EVENTS THAT HAVE OCCURRED SINCE SMITH AND HIS HENCHMEN GRABBED POWER ILLEGALLY." THESE ALLEGATIONS ARE THEREFORE "ACTS OF DESPERATION BY A FRAGILE AND TOTTERING REGIME" TO BE DISMISSED BY GRZ WITH CONTEMPT THEY DESERVE.

4. SPOKESMAN FURTHER COMMENTED ON RECENT RASH OF INCIDENTS ALONG BORDER WHICH HE ATTRIBUTED TO RHODESIAN TROOPS. CHARGED RHODESIANS WITH NUMEROUS BORDER VIOLATIONS AND SAID ZAMBIAN SECURITY FORCES HAD ARRESTED NUMBER OF INFILTRATORS WHO CONFESSED THEY TRAINED IN RHODESIA. RECENT EXPLOSION AT ZANU OFFICES IN LUSAKA (LUSAKA 2016) WAS TESTIMONY TO RHODESIA'S "DESPERATE ACTIONS." HE ADDED THAT OBJECTIVE OF RHODESIAN REGIME IS TO INCREASE NUMBER OF INCIDENTS ALONG ITS BORDER WITH ZAMBIA AND MOZAMBIQUE IN ORDER GIVE IMPRESSION OF GROWING TENSION IN THESE AREAS. SMITH REGIME IS STRIVING TO BUILD GROUNDS FOR MAINTAINING OR INCREASING SOUTH AFRICAN MILITARY COMMITMENT TO RHODESIA EVEN TO POINT, SPOKESMAN ALLEGED, THAT SOME OF INCIDENTS INVOLVING SOUTH AFRICANS IN RHODESIA ARE "DIRTY WORK" OF SMITH MEN.

5. OCT 8 TIMES OF ZAMBIA CARRIES EYE WITNESS ACCOUNT OF INCIDENT AT KAZUNGULA FERRY WHERE RHODESIANS ALLEGEDLY OPENED FIRE AT 0800 HOURS OCT 5. REPORTEDLY SHOOTING INTERRUPTED BOTSWANA-ZAMBIA FERRY TRAFFIC FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 LUSAKA 02095 110734Z

ENTIRE DAY SATURDAY. ONLY CASUALTY REPORTED WAS ONE INDIAN TRAVELLER WHO WAS HIT IN FACE BY BRICK FRAGMENTS WHEN HE INCAUSIOUSLY PEEPED OUT OF WINDOW OF KAZUNGULA CUSTOMS HOUSE DURING EXCHANGE OF FIRE.

6. TIMES OF ZAMBIA ON OCT 9 REPORTS STILL TWO MORE INCIDENTS AT KAZUNGULA. FIRST INCIDENT, APPARENTLY ON OCT 7, INVOLVED MACHINE GUN FIRE BY

RHODESIAN TROOPS AGAINST KAZUNGULA BORDER POST, ALLEGEDLY DAMAGING TWO BOATS USED BY POLICE AND IMMIGRATION. SECOND INCIDENT, ON AFTERNOON OF OCT 8, INVOLVED HELICOPTER WITH SOUTH AFRICAN MARKINGS WHICH ALLEGEDLY ENTERED ZAMBIAN AIRSPACE AND SET FIRE (POSSIBLY BY USING INCENDIARIES) TO THREE KILOMETER STRIP OF BRUSH ALONG ZAMBIAN SIDE OF ZAMBEZI RIVER BANK SOUTH OF KAZUNGULA BORDER POST. HELICOPTER RETURNED TO RHODESIAN SIDE OF RIVER AFTER BEING FIRED ON BY ZAMBIAN BORDER GUARDS. TIMES STATES INCIDENT CAUSED KAZUNGULA FERRY TO BE CLOSED FOR ONE HOUR AND BOTSWANAN BOUND TRAFFIC TO BE SENT BACK TO LIVINGSTONE.

7. COMMENT: ZAMBIANS HAVE GIVEN THEIR CUSTOMARY INTERPRETATION TO THESE EVENTS BUT IN RECENT WEEKS THEY HAVE MADE GREATER EFFORT THAN USUAL TO DEMONSTRATE THAT SMITH REGIME IS ON ITS LAST LEGS AND THEREFORE BECOMING INCREASINGLY IRRATIONAL AND DESPERATE IN ITS ACTIONS. ZAMBIA IS ESPECIALLY ANXIOUS THAT SOUTH AFRICA BE PERSUADED IT SHOULD IN ITS OWN INTEREST WITHDRAW ITS SUPPORT FROM IAN SMITH'S LOST CAUSE. HENCE THE SOMEWHAT HEAVY HANDED SUGGESTION BY GRZ SPOKESMAN, REINFORCED BY TIMES OF ZAMBIA EDITORIAL OF OCT 9, THAT SOUTH AFRICAN SECURITY PERSONNEL IN RHODESIA ARE BEING DELIBERATELY SACRIFICED BY SMITH REGIME TO BID TO RETAIN SOUTH AFRICAN SUPPORT. WILKOWSKI

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